

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Director, Special Operations

Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

"Hashomer Hatzair"

1. In answer to your request for a brief statement on the organization, nature, and affiliations of "Hashomer Hatzair," the following is furnished:

"Hashomer Hatzair is an international Zionist radical-socialist political party. In January 1948 the Palestine, or central, branch of the party joined with the Palestine branch of Ahdut Avodah (United Labor Zionist Party) to form MAPAM. MAPAM is now the second strongest party in Israel and polled 14.8% of the vote in the January 1949 elections. MAPAM advocates more extreme socialism in Israel and closer ties with the USSR than does the major MAPAI Party and forms the chief opposition to the present MAPAI-led coalition government.

"Hashomer Hatzair, which originated in Europe in 1914 as a Marxist-Zionist youth movement, soon became a society for the training of young Zionists as collective farmers in Palestine. As Marxists, its members considered themselves an integral part of the world proletariat dedicated to replacing the capitalistic system by a new classless society and social order. As Zionists, they advocated the conversion of Palestine into a socialist binational state in which the Jews would ultimately become a majority. Hashomer Hatzair's stronghold in Palestine was the National Collective, a federation of collective villages.

"Before 1939, the world unions of Hashomer Hatzair and MAPAI formed a labor bloc at the World Zionist Congresses but broke apart in 1942 when MAPAI endorsed the Biltmore Program, leaving Hashomer Hatzair as the leading binational group in the Jewish community. The Hashomer Hatzair leaders, Meir Yaari, Jacob Hazan, and Mordecai Bentov are now leaders of MAPAM.

"Hashomer Hatzair, although Marxist in doctrine, was anti-Soviet until 1941 when it became a strong advocate of Israeli-Soviet rapprochement. MAPAM still advocates strong ties with the USSR but (together with its Hashomer Hatzair component) it strongly opposes the Communist policy of anti-Zionism and the USSR's refusal to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"The US organization of Hashomer Hatzair (with offices in New York at 305 Broadway) had a membership of 3,500 in 1947. The national secretary is Meir Jaffe. For further details see The Palestine Year Book, New York 1948, vol. III, pages 452-3."

25X6



25X1A9a

G/SI:



Distribution:

AD/R&E  
AD/SO  
B/NE  
✓ G/SI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~